



focus facts on community living

OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

January 2023

Access our website at: <https://ouhsc.edu/thecenter>

Happy New Year from The Center for Learning and Leadership!

The Center for Learning and Leadership wishes you and yours a very happy and healthy 2023!



New COVID Variant "Extremely Contagious"

There is a new COVID variant that is extremely contagious. Experts report that those who haven't yet caught COVID will likely do so, and up to 80% of people who have been infected before will become infected with this new variant. Although the cases of COVID are once again on the rise, the number of severe infections remains low. Read more about the new COVID variant, XBB.1.5, and ways to help avoid severe infection, in this article from [The Oklahoman](#).

Oklahoma Self Advocacy Network (OKSAN) Offers Statewide Trainings

[Oklahoma Self Advocacy Network \(OKSAN\)](#) is a collaborative effort between the Developmental Disability Council, the Oklahoma Disability Law Center, and the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD along with Oklahoma People First, Inc., The goal of OKSAN is to strengthen the self-advocacy movement in Oklahoma and to increase the inclusion and independence of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). OKSAN offers training that was developed by self-advocates for other self-advocates. OKSAN trainers develop leadership skills, create trainings, and teach other adults with IDD, family caregivers, and professionals on topics that are important to the disability community. The following trainings are currently available: Bullying, Emergency Preparedness, Taking Control of Your Health, SALT (Self Advocacy Leadership Training), Disability Awareness, and Sexual Health and Wellness Overview (full training in development). The trainings are open to people with IDD, professionals, and family members.

OKSAN is currently scheduling trainings for the spring semester (February-June 2023). Trainings are available in-person across the state and virtually via Zoom. If you are interested in learning more or having OKSAN provide a training to your group or organization, email [Miranda Hooper](mailto:Miranda.Hooper@ouhsc.edu) at Miranda-Hooper@ouhsc.edu.

CLL's Family Support 360° Center Releases New TEFRA Support Videos in Spanish and English

[Family Support 360°](#) staff, in collaboration with the CLL staff, have created two new videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to provide information about a health coverage option through SoonerCare (Oklahoma's Medicaid program) for families whose household income and assets are above the limit for eligibility. TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act) is an option for these families to have health care coverage for their children with disabilities or severe health conditions. The new videos provide a brief explanation of the steps to apply and some of the services covered by TEFRA.

Adapting or Creating Autism Interventions for Different Cultural Groups

The common saying "When you have met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism" is often repeated in the autism community. No two people on the autism spectrum are identical and each person will have their own success and challenges. The saying can also be applied to the culture of each person on the autism spectrum. [Sandy Magaña](#), PhD, MSW Professor in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work University of Texas at Austin, discusses the importance of considering each person in their cultural context in the upcoming webinar, Creating or Adapting Autism Interventions for Different Cultural Groups. [Click here for more details](#).

Events and Announcements

January 18th: Long-term Planning - Financial and Employment Options (Virtual)

The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center invite you to a family training on Long-term Planning and Financial and Employment Options. This training is designed to help individuals and families plan for a secure future by sharing information about protecting long-term supports and benefits, including waiver supports, and methods for saving money beyond the typical Medicaid asset limits. Learn about options for community-integrated employment, such as Ticket to Work, and ways to save money, such as OK STABLE accounts. Come learn about what could be available to you or your loved ones. [Registration is required](#).

Training Series offered in the evenings

The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center will be offering their community and family training series in the evenings starting with the Waiver Basics on Jan. 31st at 5:30 PM. Registration is required. [Waiver Basics registration](#). To learn more about future community and family trainings please email Wanda Felty, wanda-felty@ouhsc.edu.

Night to Shine registration open for both OKC events happening in February 2023.

[Night to Shine](#) is a prom experience for teens and adults 14+ with disabilities. This is a nationwide program sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. This year, Oklahoma City will be hosting two Night to Shine events on February 10th, 2023. [Putnam City Baptist Church](#) and [Crossings Community Church](#) will host this popular event. Limited space is available. Register now at your location of choice.

Save the Date! Joining Forces March 31st 2023

Joining Forces will be held in Oklahoma City on March 31st 2023. CLL's Director, [Valerie Williams](#), will be the keynote at the 2023 conference. To register, visit the [Oklahoma Family Network website](#) or scan this QR code with your phone to take you directly to registration:



We want to hear from you!

Do you have news or an event to share? Please send all information including a link (if applicable) to learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu. All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4th Friday in June for July's newsletter).

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Or use your cell phone camera and point it to this QR code



The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff.

focus facts is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph (or less) description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact.

If you have questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500. The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu. It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.